

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for outputting a media content ~~item~~ items, the apparatus comprising:

~~a receiver (110) arranged to receive a first media content item,~~

~~output means (120) an output device arranged to output said a~~  
first media content item to a ~~user,~~ user;

~~timing means a timer arranged to determine a time duration of~~  
outputting of said first media content item;

~~selection means (130) for user-operably inputting a selector~~  
arranged for receiving a command to replace said first media  
content item at a particular moment of time while outputting said  
first item, and media content item;

a time-estimating ~~means (140)~~ device arranged to estimate, upon ~~inputting receipt of~~ said command, a ~~period of remaining~~ time necessary for outputting a remaining part of said first media content item, the remaining time being measured from substantially said particular time to an end of the duration of outputting said first media content item; and

a search ~~means (150)~~ device arranged to search for at least one second media content item, wherein a duration of said at least one second item is substantially equal to said ~~period of remaining~~ time.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said time-estimating ~~means are~~ device is arranged to estimate a time of searching said at least one second media content item, and to decrease said ~~period of remaining~~ time ~~for by~~ said estimated time of searching.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said output ~~means are~~ device is arranged to adjust the output of said at

least one second media content item to said ~~period of remaining~~  
time.

4.(Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said  
output ~~means are device is~~ arranged to fade out the output of said  
at least one second media content item upon expiration of said  
~~period of remaining~~ time.

5.(Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further  
comprising a database for maintaining durations of the media  
content items, wherein said time estimating ~~means are device is~~  
arranged to determine a duration of said first media content item  
by identifying said first media content item in ~~a the~~ database  
~~(160) storing data pertaining to a duration of a plurality of media~~  
~~content items.~~

6.(Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, ~~wherein said~~  
further comprising:

a receiver is arranged to receive broadcast media content

~~items, and further comprising+ items; and~~

a monitoring means ~~(170)~~ device arranged to identify a particular broadcast media content item and to store in said database a duration of said particular broadcast media content item upon completion of receiving said particular broadcast media content item.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 1~~ claim 5, wherein said search ~~means are~~ device is arranged to search for said at least one second media content item in a ~~the~~ database ~~(180)~~ storing a plurality of media content items.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said search ~~means are~~ device is arranged to establish for the first media content item being outputted a substitution list having at least one element indicating ~~a particular the~~ at least one second media content item to be used for replacing said first media content item at a ~~the particular moment-time~~ of outputting said first media content item.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said search ~~means are~~ device is further arranged to select one of the second media content items having the duration which is substantially equal to said ~~period of~~ remaining time, based on user preferences ~~(190)~~ of the user.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said search ~~means are~~ device is further arranged to indicate a ~~user's~~ dislike of the user of said first media content item in ~~user's~~ the user preferences ~~(190)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first and second media content items are audio content items.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first and second media content items are ~~radiobroadcast~~ radio broadcast programs.

13. (Currently Amended) A consumer electronics device selected from ~~a group of~~ a television set, personal computer, audio player, and portable equipment, ~~wherein the device incorporates the apparatus for outputting media content items, the device~~ comprising:

~~a receiver (110) arranged to receive a first media content item,~~

~~output means (120) device~~ arranged to output said a first media content item to a user, and user;

~~timing means a timer~~ arranged to determine a time duration of outputting of said first media content item;

~~selection means (130) for user-operably inputting a selector~~ for receiving a command to replace said first media content item at a particular moment of time while outputting said first item, media content item;

a time-estimating means (140) device arranged to estimate, upon ~~inputting receipt of~~ said command, a period of time remaining necessary for outputting a remaining part of said first media content item measured from substantially said particular time to an

~~end of the duration of outputting~~ said first media content item;  
and

a search means ~~(150) device~~ arranged to search for at least one second media content item, wherein a duration of said at least one second media content item is substantially equal to said ~~period of remaining~~ time.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of outputting a ~~media content~~ item ~~items~~, the method comprising the acts of:

~~a step of receiving a first media content item,~~

~~a step of outputting said a first media content~~ item to a user,

~~a step of user operably inputting receiving~~ a command to replace said first media content item at a particular ~~moment~~ time of outputting said first item,

~~a step of determining a time duration of outputting of said~~ first media content item,

~~a step of estimating, upon inputting receipt of~~ said command, a ~~period of remaining~~ time necessary for outputting a remaining

part of said first media content item, the remaining time being measured from substantially said particular time to an end of the duration of outputting said first media content item, and

~~a step of~~ searching for at least one second media content item, wherein a duration of said at least one second media content item is substantially equal to said ~~period of remaining~~ time.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product enabling a programmable device, when executing said computer program product, to function as an apparatus for outputting media content items having durations, the apparatus comprising:

~~a receiver (110) arranged to receive a first media content item,~~

~~output means (120) an output device~~ arranged to output said a first media content item to a ~~user,~~ user;

~~timing means a timer~~ arranged to determine a ~~time~~ duration of outputting of said first media content item;

~~selection means (130) for user-operably inputting a selector~~ arranged for receiving a command to replace said first media



content item at a particular moment-of-time while outputting said first item, media content item;

a time-estimating means (140) device arranged to estimate,  
upon receipt of inputting said command, a period-of-remaining time  
necessary for outputting a remaining part of said first media  
content item, the remaining time being measured from substantially  
said particular time to an end of the duration of outputting said  
first item; and

a search means (150) device arranged to search for at least  
one second media content media content item, wherein a duration of  
said at least one second media content item is substantially equal  
to said period-of-remaining time.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first media content item comprises a first song, and the at least one second media content item comprises a second song.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, in response to the command, the output device is configured to interrupt outputting

the first media content item upon expiration of a search time for finding the at least one second media content item.

18.(New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, in response to the command, the output device is configured to interrupt outputting the first media content item upon finding the at least one second media content item.

19.(New) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the substitution list is renewed whenever a new first media content is outputted by the output device.